



BIOGRAPHY

Caroline Trumpold

BIRTHPLACE

Caroline Trumpold was born in Middle Amana, Iowa in 1932.

CHILDHOOD

Ms. Trumpold has lived in Amana all her life. She was “surrounded by art,” as she came from an artistic family. Her great-grandfather made clocks, many for wedding presents. They were known as Hahn clocks. Her brother was Jack Hahn, the wildlife artist. She learned her craft of quilt making from her mother. Patterns are traditionally handed down and she inherited the design templates for her quilt work from her grandmother, with instructions written in German. Ms. Trumpold’s father designed the quilt pattern for her parents’ bed.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Caroline Trumpold had no art classes in high school. She attended Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, Iowa, in 1949 and 1950. Caroline went on to receive a Bachelors in Elementary Education from the University of Iowa in 1970, and a Masters in Special Education in 1979.

POSITION

Ms. Trumpold is a full-time artist, creating up to fifteen quilts a year. She has also taught at the Amana Arts Guild for children. She is a former teacher and serves as a song leader in her church.

INSPIRATION/INFLUENCE

The culture of her upbringing inspired Caroline Trumpold. When Ms. Trumpold was married, she received a quilt from her mother and one from her husband’s mother. It was traditional for any couple to have two quilts when they married. One was a summer quilt and the other a winter quilt. She is inspired as an artist to try to do something different with the art form. Amana quilts are not pieced together from different materials, but are whole cloth quilts like comforters with batting inside. She taught children some of her methods and found that one of her most interested students was a boy who had been taught by his grandmother.

ART FORM

Whole cloth quilting is done with two pieces of fabric with batting in between. Designs are chalked onto the fabric and then the design is sewn through all the layers of fabric, securing the batting with the stitches themselves forming the quilt pattern.

ARTWORK DISPLAYED

Trumpold was represented in a 1996 exhibit at the Sesquicentennial celebration of the Smithsonian Museum. Her work is sold and sometimes on display at Fern Hill Gifts & Quilts in Middle Amana, Iowa.

WEB SITE

www.fernhill.net